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July 12, 1978

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Dear Senator Byrd:

Thank you for your letter of June 21 on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Crachi concerning allegations that Raoul Wallenberg is alive and confined in a Soviet mental asylum.

According to Department of State records, Mr. Wallenberg was assigned to the Swedish mission in Budapest, Hungary, during World War II, and disappeared in January of 1945 following the arrival of Soviet troops in Budapest. In response to repeated inquiries by the Swedish Government, the Soviet Government in February 1957 stated that Mr. Wallenberg had died in a Moscow prison on July 17, 1947. Despite the fact that the Swedish Government has officially raised the issue of Mr. Wallenberg's fate on a number of subsequent occasions, citing the fact that several persons claimed to have seen him alive during the 1950's, the Soviet Government has provided no additional information.

Mr. Wallenberg's mother, Mrs. Frederick von Dardel, has continued to pursue the question of the fate of her son with the Swedish Government and the Swedish Red Cross. Since the Swedish Government and Red Cross are thoroughly familiar with Mr. Wallenberg's case, we believe they are

The Honorable
Senator Byrd,
United States Senate.

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in the best position to make inquiries to the Soviet
authorities in the event that further representation would
be believed helpful.

Sincerely,

BG

Douglas J. Bennet, Jr.
Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations

Enclosure:

Correspondence Returned.

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